

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1 and 12 are amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 7-10, 14, 16, 19-22, 24-26, 29 and 30 is noted and appreciated.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Hooper et al. (US 6,761,493). This application claims priority in JP 2003-022256, which was filed on January 30, 2003 and predates Hooper's priority date of March 18, 2003. Accordingly, a sworn English translation of the priority papers is enclosed to eliminate Hooper as a prior art reference. The rejections under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the computer translation of JP 08-282068 (JP '068).

This invention is directed to a printing apparatus (label writer 1) that has a normal print mode based on print data sent from a host computer, and a demonstration print mode based on stored demonstration print data. The printing apparatus may include a connection object detection means, with the print mode set to normal or demonstration based on the detected connection object (claim 1). That is, if the connection object is a host computer the print mode is set to normal, and if there is no connection object the print mode is set to demonstration. Alternatively (or in addition), the printing apparatus may include a print medium detection means, with the print mode being set based on the detected print medium (claim 12). *Importantly, the printing apparatus has no user interface and the demonstration print mode is triggered by a user operation such as supplying power, loading the print medium or connecting the connection object.* Thus, a user may

quickly and easily begin demonstration printing without a special operation or key, and cost savings are achieved by elimination of the user interface.

JP '068 possesses the very disadvantage which the present invention overcomes: the requirement of a user interface. The first sentence of the abstract of JP '068 indicates that the purpose is to execute the printing of a sample *by allotting the printing sample start function to a specific operation key*. Specifically, a FF key 8b is provided and must be pressed by a user in order to initiate sample printing. The present invention, by contrast, achieves sample or demonstration printing without requiring any key press or other user interface operation.

The Action, in rejecting dependent claim 15 which is specifically directed to the lack of a user interface, asserts that lines 7-8 of the JP '068 abstract teaches that "the user interface is eliminated and that only the FF key 8b is required to be pressed". We strongly disagree, since FF key 8b is by its very nature a user interface. Although JP '068 states as its purpose to reduce the number of operation keys, it still does not teach or suggest the complete elimination of the user interface, as evidenced by the requirement of FF key 8b to initiate sample printing.

Independent claims 1 and 12 are amended to emphasize this distinction. Claims 1 and 12 now require that the specific operation for triggering demonstration printing *does not require operation of a user interface or button*. JP '068 does not meet this requirement, and therefore does not anticipate claim 1 or claims 2, 4, 6, 11 and 27 dependent thereon. The rejections under 35 USC 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 23 and 28 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over JP '068 in view of Walker et al. (US 6,557,965). Walker was cited against claim 12 and other claims for its disclosure of a print medium detection means but, like JP '068, does not provide the ability to initiate sample printing without operation of a user interface. Thus, claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 23 and 28 are

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allowable for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, above. The rejections under 35 USC 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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